

## Virginia Works Newsletter

### Summer 1999 -- Logging Emphasis Program Is Underway

In an attempt to reduce the alarming number of logging injuries and fatalities, DOLI and other agencies have created a logging special emphasis program (LEP). The logging industry is considered one of the most hazardous industries in the nation. Since February 1996, more than 100 loggers have died as the result of logging accidents. Sixteen (16) of these fatalities occurred in western Virginia and West Virginia - two of them in national forests.

DOLI developed the special emphasis program in conjunction with Federal OSHA in Norfolk and West Virginia Federal OSHA to reduce both logging accidents and fatalities in state and national forests. In order to gain broad access to all resources related to the logging industry, cooperation also included assistance from the U.S. Forest Service, Virginia Forestry Association, Virginia Forest Products Association, Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, and the Virginia Department of Forestry.

The first phase of the LEP was kicked off with logger training at Mountain Empire Community College in Duffield, Virginia, and Dabney Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia. The training sessions featured presentations covering enforcement and voluntary protection programs and provided information on developing safety and health programs for logging operations. Other topics included logging equipment safety, chain saw safety, and log truck safety. The loggers who voluntarily attended these training sessions and agreed to develop and implement safety and health programs for their operations were eligible to receive the highest possible penalty reduction factor of 95 percent should any violations be served during possible subsequent enforcement inspections. The training sessions were well attended, and feedback was positive.

The inspection portion of the LEP began in June 1999, and will continue until the end of the year.

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and  
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